

Docket No.: 02-02 US

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.-11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) An apparatus for selectively routing optical signals over more or more optical channels to and from one or more sample test sites, the apparatus comprising:

- (a) a base;
- (b) an optical channel selection device supported by the base and comprising an internal optical fiber including an internal optical fiber output end, the optical channel selection device rotatable for aligning the internal fiber output end with a selected one of a plurality of available optical channels whereby an optical signal can be transmitted to a test site corresponding to the selected optical channel;
- (c) a mounting member supported by the base; and
- (d) a plurality of fiber-optic return lines corresponding to the optical channels, each return line including a return line input end for receiving an optical signal from a test site and a return line output end fixedly supported by the mounting member for transmitting an optical signal to a signal receiving device.

13. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, comprising a plurality of fiber-optic source lines corresponding to the plurality of optical channels and including respective source line input ends fixedly disposed in a circular arrangement, wherein the internal optical fiber output end is alignable with a selected source line input end through incremental rotation of the optical channel selection device.

14. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the optical channel selection device comprises:

Docket No.: 02-02 US

- (a), a rotary element rotatable about a central axis, wherein the internal optical fiber is disposed in the rotary element and the internal optical fiber output end is disposed at a radially offset distance from the central axis; and
- (b) a stationary element disposed adjacent to the rotary element and having a plurality of circumferentially spaced stationary element apertures, wherein each stationary element aperture is disposed at the radially offset distance from the central axis, and the internal optical fiber output end is alignable with a selected one of the stationary element apertures through rotation of the rotary element.

15. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the stationary element includes an annular section coaxially disposed around the rotary element.

16. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the optical channel selection device comprises a bearing coaxially interposed between the rotary element and the annular section.

17. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the internal optical fiber includes an internal optical fiber input end disposed collinearly with the central axis, and the apparatus further comprises an additional stationary element having a central aperture aligned with the internal optical fiber input end.

18.-21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, comprising a plurality of sample test sites, each sample test site selectable for optical communication with the internal optical fiber end of the optical channel selection device at a selected rotary index position thereof and with one of the optical return lines corresponding to the selected rotary index position.

23-48. (canceled)